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carboxylic acid, whereby acetaldehyde is generated in situ, adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to below 4, whereby the acylation reaction is terminated, and maintaining the pH below 4 to cause said acetaldehyde to react with the starch.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein the vinyl ester is vinyl acetate.

7. The process of preparing cross-linked starch acylates, which comprises acylating starch in an alkaline, aqueous paste thereof with a vinyl ester of a monocarboxylic acid, whereby acetaldehyde is generated in situ, adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to below 4,

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whereby the acylation reaction is terminated, and maintaining the pH below 4 to cause said acetaldehyde to react with the starch.

- 5 8. An acetaldehyde cross-linked starch acylate.
9. An acetaldehyde cross-linked starch acetate.
10. An acetaldehyde cross-linked starch propionate.

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